

2014 Coalition Self-Assessment Tool

What does my coalition self-assessment score mean?

The coalition self-assessment score is a general indicator of a coalition's strength based on your answers to questions in seven major areas: General Information, Infrastructure, Coordinator & Funding, Coalition Activities, Coalition Interventions, Environmental Change and Policy Change. The score provides you with a general idea of your coalition strength and areas that might be improved if you want to be more involved with interventions in your community.

There is no "right" level for a coalition to be at. Some coalitions primarily provide a forum for information sharing and that's fine if that's the agreed to level of the members. Moving to a higher level will likely require a greater investment in resources and staffing, which might not be possible or desired by some coalitions.

Summarized below is a broad description of likely characteristics of coalitions at the different levels. A more detailed description of key characteristics in the major areas listed above can be found on page three.

COALITION LEVEL SCORES:

Level 1 (0-70 points): Coalition has met and shared information amongst members, but has not developed a strategic plan or defined goals and objectives for action.

Level 2 (71-140 points): Coalition has met regularly to share information amongst members, has developed a strategic plan to define the coalition's goals and objectives for action, is beginning to build capacity (includes networking, facilitating, collaborative leadership, recruiting and retaining members), but has not yet begun to develop a program or intervention.

Level 3 (141-210 points): Coalition has built some capacity, has developed a strategic plan, and has partners and/or sufficient resources. The coalition has started to implement a program or intervention that addresses at least a single focus area (e.g. fruits and vegetables) in a single setting (e.g. schools, worksites).

Level 4 (211-280 points): Coalition has built some capacity, has developed a strategic plan, and has partners and/or sufficient resources. The coalition has planned, implemented and evaluated a program or intervention that addresses at least a single focus area (e.g. fruits and vegetables) in a single setting (e.g. schools, worksites). The coalition is also working on policy and environmental changes.

Level 5 (>280 points): Coalition has built sufficient capacity, has developed a strategic plan, and has planned, implemented, and evaluated a program or intervention that addresses multiple focus areas (e.g. fruits and vegetables and physical activity) or multiple settings (e.g. schools, worksites). and has sufficient partners and resources to implement and sustain efforts.

SECTION	QUESTION #	MAXIMUM PTS	COALITION LEVEL				
			(Approximate point value for each level)				
			1	2	3	4	5
General Information	9-16	(71)	6	18	25	37	45
Infrastructure	17-19	(78)	12	20	32	45	55
Coordinator & Funding	20-23	(50)	2	18	25	40	50
Coalition Activities	24-32	(86)	10	20	25	35	50
Strategies/Interventions	33-42	(154)	10	20	30	45	60
Environmental Change	43-44	(35)	0	10	20	25	30
Policy Change	45-48	(55)	0	15	20	30	40
Total		(529)	~40	~121	~177	~257	~330
			0-70	71-140	141-210	211-280	>280

Key Characteristics of Coalitions at Each Level

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
General Information	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coalition years of existence					
Strategic plan		✓	✓	✓	✓
Defined goals and objectives		✓	✓	✓	✓
Infrastructure					
Regular meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
General partners represented on the coalition	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Key partners engaged for each intervention area			✓	✓	✓
Coordinator and Funding					
Has a designated coordinator who is a volunteer	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Has a designated coordinator who is up to ½ time FTE paid			✓	✓	✓
Has a fulltime, paid designated coordinator				✓	✓
Has an operating budget of less than \$10,000	✓	✓	-	-	-
Has an operating budget of \$10,000-\$50,000		✓	✓	-	-
Has an operating budget of \$50,000-\$100,000			✓	✓	✓
Has an operating budget of greater than \$100,000				✓	✓
Coalition Activities					
Primary function of coalition is information sharing	✓	✓	-	-	-
Primary function of coalition is implementing interventions		✓	✓	✓	✓
Interventions (Strategies implemented)					
Started work on an intervention in 1 setting		✓	✓	✓	✓
Intervention in progress with multiple strategies in at least 1 setting				✓	✓
Interventions in progress or completed in multiple settings					✓
Environmental and Policy Changes					
Has focused some coalition work to change the environment/policies			✓	✓	✓
Has done educational or media advocacy activities to change policies			✓	✓	✓

COALITION ASSESSMENT SECTIONS:

General Information (71 points possible) – This section looks at how long your coalition has been in existence, its reasons for forming and its development and use of a strategic plan. Coalitions that are going to be effective in implementing strategies will score high (>35) in this section, indicating that they have a clear mission and a written plan to implement strategies.

Infrastructure (78 points possible) – This section primarily looks at the coalition’s membership and meeting frequency. Although a small number of dedicated or key coalition members may be able to implement a number of strategies, generally larger membership will mean additional resources to help with any interventions. Having key local decision makers (i.e. mayor, school superintendent, etc.) involved with the coalition is a big plus.

Coordinator and Funding (50 points possible) – This section is a key section for most coalitions. High functioning coalitions normally have a full-time coordinator and a substantial budget (>\$100,000). Although there are exceptions to this, it is a decided advantage when one person is always working on behalf of the coalition.

Coalition Activities (86 points possible) – This section focuses on what types of activities the coalition is involved with and awards points based on key criteria that indicate a well planned and properly staffed intervention. Although it’s unlikely that any coalition will be involved in all the key activities, the more activities that are covered, the more likely the intervention will have some impact.

Interventions (154 points possible) – This section awards points for interventions in key settings by implementing evidence-based strategies. Implementing strategies in one or more settings is a good indicator of coalition strength. Although additional points are awarded based on the number of settings the coalition is working in, focusing on one setting and doing a more thorough intervention is a better idea, especially if working with limited resources.

Environmental Change (35 points possible) & Policy Change (55 points possible) – Coalitions focusing on changing the environment or policies to make it easier to make healthy choices receive points because of the far-reaching impact these types of change can have.